

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 MCE-00 ACDA-07 OMB-01 IGA-02
AID-05 TRSE-00 INR-07 L-03 SS-15 PRS-01 USIA-06
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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4351
INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
CNO WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 4018

SECDEF FOR DSAA/ISA; CNO FOR OP-63; USCINCEUR FOR ECJ4/7

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, NO
SUBJ: REPORTED USG "IRRITATION" WITH GON ON AIRCRAFT PURCHASES

1. OSLO DAILY MORGENBLADET GAVE FRONT PAGE COVERAGE AUGUST 31 TO A STORY BY CORRESPONDENT KNUT FALCHENBERG STATING THAT THE INABILITY OF THE GON TO REACH A DECISION ON THE PURCHASE OF ORION AIRCRAFT HAS CAUSED "IRRITATION" AMONG U.S. MILITARY AUTHORITIES.

2. THE FALCHENBERG STORY, WHICH WAS, IN ESSENCE, CONFIRMED BY COL. OMRENG OF THE DEFENSE MINISTRY IN ANOTHER MORGENBLADET FRONT PAGE STORY ON SEPTEMBER 1, CONCERNS THE GON FAILURE TO MEET A JULY 15 DEADLINE FOR THE PURCHASE OF ORION P-3 AIRCRAFT FOR THENORWEGIAN COAST GUARD. THE ARTICLE ATTRIBUTES FOR DELAY BOTH TO LACK OF EXPEDITIOUS HANDLING OF THE MATTER BY THE STORTING AND TO GON UNCERTAINTY OVER THE TYPE OF AIRCRAFT (P-3 OF C-130) THAT THE GON WISHES TO PURCHASE.

2. COMMENT: THE ORWEGIAN DIFFICULTIES IN REACHING A
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FINAL DECISION ON THE ORION PURCHASE REFLECT SEVERAL INTERNAL PROBLEMS. THERE IS, AS NOTED IN THE ARTICLE, THE MATTER OF DELAY OCCASIONED BY STORTING PROCEDURES. BEYOND THAT, THERE IS OME QUESTION WITHIN THE MOD ABOUT WHICH TYPE OF AIRCRAFT IS NEEDED BY THE NORWEGIAN SERVICES. (THERE IS SOME ARGUMENT FOR AIRCRAFT WHICH COULD BE USED BOTH BY THE COAST GUARD FOR PATROL

AND FOR ARMY TROOP LIFTING. THERE IS ALSO SOME INTEREST IN A MIXED PURCHASE OF BOTH TYPES OF AIRCRAFT.) LASTLY THERE IS THE POLITICALLY SENSITIVE QUESTION OF THE TYPE OF AIRCRAFT TO BE USED BY THE NORWEGIAN COAST GUARD IN ITS PATROLLING OF THE SVALBARD AREA, WHICH IS, BY TERMS OF THE 1920 TREATY, DEMILITARIZED. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY MOD SOURCES THAT THE GON ANTICIPATES THAT THE AIRCRAFT WHICH ARE PURCHASED FOR THE COAST GUARD WILL HAVE TO MAKE PERIODIC LANDINGS ON SVALBARD. IN THAT EVENT, GON IS CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE SOVIET REACTIONS TO THE USE OF P-3S (AIRCRAFT NORMALLY ASSOCIATED WITH ASW).

3. FROM THE TONE OF THE ARTICLE, IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT FALCHENBERG'S SOURCE WAS THE NORWEGIAN MILITARY MISSION IN WASHINGTON, RATHER THAN USG OFFICIALS. IN ANY EVENT, FRONT PAGE REPORTING OF U.S. MILITARY OFFICIALS' "IRRITATION" WITH THE GON IS NOT HELPFUL.

4. PRESS GUIDANCE: UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO THE CONTRARY WE INTEND TO RESPOND TO ANY PRESS INQUIRIES BY CONFIRMING THAT THERE ARE ONGOING U.S.-NORWEGIAN DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING THESE AIRCRAFT PURCHASES AND THAT THERE IS NO USG "IRRITATION" WITH THE GON CONCERNING DELAY ON THESE AIRCRAFT PURCHASES.
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Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: AIRCRAFT, PRESS COMMENTS, GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT
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Sent Date: 02-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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